

Domestic Relations Committee
Judicial Conference of Indiana

Minutes
October 18, 2002

The Domestic Relations Committee met at the Indiana Judicial Center in Indianapolis, Indiana on Friday, October 18, 2002, from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

1. Members present. David Bonfiglio, Thomas J. Felts; Diana LaViolette; Keith A. Meier; Robyn L. Moberly; Michael P. Scopelitis; Richard G. Striegel; and Daniel F. Donahue, Chair.
2. Staff present. Jeffrey Bercovitz provided the committee with staff assistance.
3. Minutes approved. The minutes for the meeting of the committee on August 16, 2002 were approved.
4. Guests present. Dr. David Betson, University of Notre Dame; Paul Leonard, Chair, Family and Juvenile Law Section, ISBA; Robert Monday, PACE, and Richard Myers were also present.
5. Legislation.
 - a. Judge Donahue reported the Commission on Courts passed (10-0) draft legislation to continue the Allen County Mediation Pilot Project, permit any county to opt into this program, and permit the use of senior judges as domestic relations mediators.
 - b. Committee members reviewed proposed legislation at the request of the Interim Study Committee on Marriage and Family Building Initiatives. The committee members agreed to the concept of predivorce counseling contained in PD 3629 but not to any particular language in the legislation. Mr. Leonard indicated the Family Law Section proposed this legislation six years ago. The committee took no position on PD 3612, premarital counseling before issuance of a marriage license and PD 3518, which included various waiting periods for divorce.
6. Child Support Guidelines. Dr. Betson distributed a proposed shared parenting time credit worksheet and table of overnights to be completed by the obligor to members of the committee. They worked various case examples with it. Committee members agreed by consensus to have the shared parenting time credit "across the board" by number of annual overnights. Judge Donahue agreed to draft language for the guidelines and commentary for the use of this worksheet.
7. Next meeting dates. The members of the committee agreed to meet from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 15, and Saturday, November 16 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon; Friday, January 17, 2003, February 21, 2003, March 21, 2003, April 18, 2003, May 16, 2003, July 18, 2003, August 15, 2003, October 17, 2003, all from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Indiana Judicial Center; and Thurs.-Fri., Nov. 13-14, 2003 for an all day Judicial Center Seminar on Domestic Relations; and hold no Nov. 2003 mtg.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey Bercovitz, Director
Juvenile and Family Law